

CWP 21 g. 40/27

# A Friend to good Government and to Public Tranquillity,

MOST earnestly recommends to those, who have an opportunity, *to read with attention the Bill now depending in Parliament, for preventing Seditious Meetings*, as the best ANSWER to the Misrepresentations which Anarchists have circulated against it.--He solicits the attention of those, who may not have such opportunity, to the following short, but correct Outline of it:

In the first place, the first Clause of the Bill *expressly excepts from its operation, all County Meetings, all Meetings of Corporate Bodies, as well as Meetings of every Description called by Two Magistrates.*

The Bill, in fact, applies only to *such other Meetings, the object of which, real or pretended, is the Redress of some Public Grievance, or some Alteration in Church or State.*

From the Promoters of such Meetings, a Public Notice is required by the Bill, of their intention to assemble (as is the constant practice of all other Public Meetings,) *not summoning any Magistrate to attend, but only enabling them by such Advertisement, to do so, should they have reason to suspect a seditious intent in such Meeting.*

Should such seditious intent appear evident, from Proceedings held at such Meetings, Two Magistrates are empowered by the Bill to dissolve it; for the exercise of which discretionary power, *they are responsible to the Courts of Law.*

Persons who mean to read Lectures on Political Subjects, and for Money, and no others, are required to apply for a License to do so, to Two Magistrates. THE WHOLE BILL IS TEMPORARY.

## SHORT OBSERVATIONS.

This is not a Bill to inflict Pains and Penalties, but merely a *Bill of Prevention*; to increase the Security of His MAJESTY's Royal Person—(which the late flagitious Attempt on His Life makes absolutely necessary)—to maintain the Public Tranquillity, and to preserve the Constitution.—*There is no additional Power whatever given to Government by the Bill, or to either House of Parliament; but only a Power to a description of Gentlemen, perhaps the most independent in the Kingdom, to be exercised under a responsible discretion.*—THE RIGHT OF PETITIONING TO THE KING OR TO PARLIAMENT, REMAINS EXACTLY AS THE BILL FINDS IT. The obligation to take out a License to read Political Lectures, is by no means so strong a measure as that on Play-Houses to do the same; which has never been objected to. The Bill will expire, when the spirit of Sedition and Treason, which Levelling Clubs have unfortunately been too successful in exciting, shall have subsided.

Let the Public examine with Attention, and without Prejudice,  
and judge for itself.